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Message Text

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PAGE 01 VANCOU 00689 211924Z
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 EA-07 STR-04 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 /038 W
----------022184 220432Z /20
R 211918Z JUL 77
FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3615

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, CA
SUBJECT: BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

REF: VANCOUVER 588

1. CONGEN ECON/COMMERCIAL OFFICERS ATTENDED JULY 15 MEETING CALLED BY BELGIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER TO DISCUSS NEW PREFERENTIAL B.C. GOVERNMENT PURCHASING POLICY ANNOUNCED JUNE 16 (SEE REFTEL). REPRESENTATIVES FROM FOLLOWING VANCOUVER CONSULATES WERE IN ATTENDANCE: UK, AUSTRALIA, PHILIPPINES, SOUTH KOREA, ITALY AND FRANCE.

2. UK TRADE COMMISSIONER TOOK LEAD IN DISCUSSION AND EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN OVER FACT THAT NEW POLICY HAS BEEN PUT IN WRITTEN FORM AND GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY, THAT B.C. HAS ADOPTED A STATED INTENTION TO GIVE PREFERENCES TO OTHER PROVINCES OVER FOREIGN SOURCES AND THAT, ACCORDING TO HIS INFORMATION, B.C. CROWN CORPORATIONS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE THE POLICY SERIOUSLY AND TO APPLY IT RIGOROUSLY. HE ADDED THAT HERETOFORE BRITISH COLUMBIA'S INFORMAL FIVE PERCENT PREFERENCE GRANTED TO LOCAL PROVINCIAL SUPPLIERS HAS HAD LITTLE IF ANY COMMERCIAL IMPACT. HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE
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NEW SITUATION HAS POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS TRADE DISTORTION EFFECTS AND MIGHT SERVE TO ENCOURAGE OTHER PROVINCES TO ADOPT SIMILAR MEASURES. FURTHERMORE, IF CROWN CORPORATIONS, SUCH AS B.C. HYDRO, ADHERE TO THE POLICY THE LEVEL OF AFFECTED ANNUAL B.C. PURCHASES RISES SUBSTANTIALLY TO AN ESTIMATED DOLS 1.5 BILLION.

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3. UK REP URGED THAT THE MATTER BE DRAWN TO THE ATTENTION OF THE RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES/HIGH COMMISSIONS IN OTTAWA WITH A VIEW TO POSSIBLE JOINT AND/OR INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GOC OVER THE B.C. ACTION. HE ALSO REQUESTED THAT THOSE PRESENT ASCERTAIN WHETHER THEIR PRINCIPALS IN OTTAWA WOULD AUTHORIZE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE B.C. GOVERNMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE VANCOUVER CONSULAR CORPS EITHER AS A GROUP OR INDIVIDUALLY. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Retention: 0
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: ETRD, CA
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Type: TE
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